

Americans paid willingly and courageously. Our children, the future of our country, should know that the privilege of being an American is also a responsibility. Each of us is honor bound to uphold the principles of democracy and the liberties born of a government that is run by the people and for the people. They should know that we enjoy these freedoms only because we have been willing to fight for them, and that they, too, could face the terrible reality of war in their lifetimes. Most importantly, they should know that the peace bought by the lives of so many of our veterans should not be squandered, but nurtured so that it may flourish for generations to come.

On Tuesday, in cities and towns across the country, there will be parades, speeches, and memorial services honoring the memories of veterans—our friends and relatives who press on our country. As we participate in these events, let us remember to tell our children that, like the appreciation we express on Thanksgiving Day, the appreciation we express on Veterans Day should not end when the clock strikes midnight. Our thanks and appreciation should continue each day, because we have much for which to be thankful, and many veterans to thank.

HONORING THADDEUS "TED"
MUSIALKIEWICZ

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a man who has devoted his life to serving the community of New York's Ulster County.

Thaddeus "Ted" Musialkiewicz began his involvement in local activities at a very young age. From organizing youth athletic teams to founding and serving as scoutmaster in a local Boy Scout troop, Ted took a keen interest in the lives of those around him. He truly enjoyed being involved with his neighbors, and, Mr. Speaker, that feeling was reciprocated.

While devoting a great deal of his time to community groups, Ted managed to establish himself as a successful businessman and craftsman. He was eventually named president of the Town of Ulster's Business Association where his capable leadership helped to guide local businesses to prosperity.

Outside of his proficient professional career and generous community service, Ted selflessly entered into the civic arena by serving as both councilman and supervisor for the Town of Ulster. Once again, he used this leadership opportunity to promote a better standard of living for all of those around him. His outstanding accomplishments in this capacity are epitomized by his efforts in opening the Town of Ulster Public Library. This building, which continues to serve the Ulster community, will forever be a lasting legacy to Ted's selfless work on behalf of his peers.

Although Ted was constantly busy with one project or another, he found the time to maintain strong ties to his ethnic community. In characteristic fashion, he was, and remains today, extraordinarily active in the White Eagle Benevolent Society, working to preserve Polish-American values and promote the academic success of Polish-American students.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friends in the White Eagle Benevolent Society in honoring Thaddeus Musialkiewicz for his charitable service to his community and tireless commitment to elevating those around him. I am proud to call Ted my friend and wish him and his family well.

H.R. 2616, THE CHARTER SCHOOL
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2616, the Charter Schools Amendments Act of 1997. This bill which purports to expand charter school funding in fact limits Federal funding opportunities for charter school projects in many States that do not meet the prescriptive "priorities" set forth in this bill.

Under H.R. 2616 half of the funding and eventually all of it will be given only to those States with laws which promote charter schools to the greatest extent. In order to be considered for funding, State laws must meet the following criteria: (1) encourage the highest degree of flexibility for charter schools; (2) allow for the increase of charter schools each year, and (3) require a periodic review and evaluation. Those States which do not meet these criteria, including my State, will actually find it more difficult to qualify for Federal funds than under the current system.

States will be forced to change their State charter schools laws to specifically in order to tap into Federal resources.

It is simply inconceivable to me that this bill was crafted by the same Republican Majority which harangues about local control of education day in and day out in this Congress. This bill flies directly in the face of local control, by unabashedly attempting to influence State law to encourage the highest degree of flexibility within their charter schools and increase charter schools at a rapid pace.

As a supporter of real local control over our education system, I cannot support this bill.

The supporters of this bill have offered no evidence that there are any problems with the Federal charter schools grant program as it currently exists. This bill simply seeks to reward states that pursue the most aggressive and radical approach to charter schools.

This I believe is a serious mistake. Charter schools are a fairly new type of player in our education system. States and school districts should be free to experiment and implement this new type of school. However, the role of the Federal Government should not be to encourage one type of reform over another.

Furthermore, studies are mixed at best as to whether charter schools improve academic performance. Many serious problems have been raised in those States which have proceeded rapidly in establishing charter schools, including problems involving discrimination,

accountability of public dollars, fiscal stability, and services to children with disabilities.

The current Federal charter school program provides for an evaluation and assessment of charter schools. This will be a helpful study for school districts and States in determining whether charter schools are improving academic achievement and improving the overall school system. It is premature and unwise to make these significant changes to the Federal charter school program without the benefit of the national evaluation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will hinder efforts in my State to move forward on charter schools at their own pace, taking into consideration local issues that arise with respect to moving forward on charter schools. This is an unfair bill that borders on real intrusion in local education efforts, I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT PROMOTES
TERRORISM TO UNDERMINE
NATIONALISM AMONG OPPRESSED
MINORITIES

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have recently been made aware of more examples of how the Government of India promotes acts of terrorism to discredit legitimate nationalism among the people of Punjab, Khalistan, Christian Nagaland, Kashmir, Manipur, and the other minority nations that India occupies.

Rodney Redden is an Australian tourist who was seriously wounded in a train bombing that occurred on October 2, 1997, near Delhi, India. As you know, the Indian authorities have blamed this bombing on a Sikh militant organization called Shaheed Khalsa, which probably does not even exist. Even the state-controlled Indian press reported that no one had ever heard of this organization until it suddenly emerged to claim responsibility for this bombing.

Another example of India's violent efforts to undermine nationalist movements is the recent slaughter of innocent bus passengers near Jaluki, Nagaland. The passengers belonged to the Kuki ethnic minority. Although this tragic incident serves the useful purposes of dividing Manipur, and discrediting the freedom movement in neighboring Nagaland, all at the same time. Both States are struggling for their freedom from Indian rule. Both have been subjected to mass murders at the hands of the Indian Government. For years, these two peoples have lived together peacefully. Why should one suddenly decide to destroy the other? Apparently, the central government is funneling money to violent elements on both sides.

In the eyes of the Indian Government, there is no such thing as a peaceful advocate for Khalistan, a peaceful advocate for a free Kashmir, a peaceful advocate for an independent Nagaland, or a peaceful advocate for the freedom and national self-determination of any of the captive nations of South Asia. To India, they simply do not exist.

Well, I know two advocates for freedom from the subcontinent. One is Dr. Gurmit